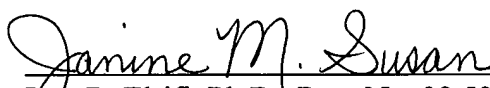


**CONCLUSION**

In view of the aforementioned remarks and amendments, the Applicants believe that each of pending claims is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections, and passage of the case to issue is respectfully requested. A notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If, upon receipt and review of this amendment, the Examiner believes that the present application is not in condition for allowance and that changes can be suggested which would place the claims in allowable form, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ivor R. Elrifi, Ph.D., Reg. No. 39,529  
Naomi S. Biswas, Esq., Reg. No. 38,384  
Janine M. Susan, Ph.D., Reg. No. 46,119  
Attorneys for Applicant  
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris,  
Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.  
Telephone 617/542-6000  
**Customer No. 30623**

Dated: January 11, 2005